

REMARKS

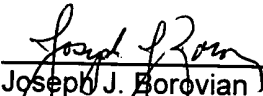
By the foregoing amendments to the specification: 1) the text has been Americanized; and 2) editorial errors noted have been corrected.

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56, the Examiner's attention is respectfully invited to all of the references that are listed on the enclosed completed PTO-1449 form. Since a copy of the asterisked references accompanied the International Search Report, copies of said references are not enclosed. However, a copy of the U.S. equivalent of European Patent 199,262, viz., USP 4,789,680, as well as a copy of the International Search Report are enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

Although this Second Preliminary Amendment and Citation of Prior Art is being filed more than three months from the 35 USC 371 date, it is being filed prior to receipt of a first Office Action and, therefore, no additional fee is deemed to be necessitated by making the relevant prior art of record at this time. However, on the chance that this Second Preliminary Amendment and Citation of Prior Art crosses in the mail with a first Office Action that bears a date prior to the date of this Second Preliminary Amendment and Citation of Prior Art (the benefit of which Applicants are entitled to by virtue of the "Certificate of Mailing" stamp on Page 1 thereof), please charge the \$240.00 fee required by 37 CFR 1.97(c) to Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,

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JJB:mjl

Encls.: Copy of completed PTO-1449 form (including copy of USP 4,789,680)
Copy of International Search Report
Postcard

Date: February 1, 2000